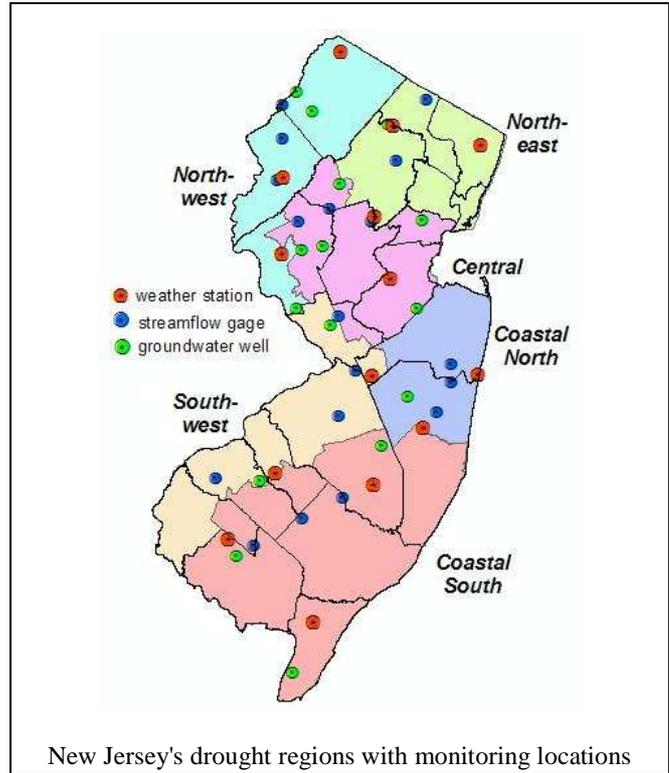


## New Jersey Water-Supply Drought Indicators

### Purpose

- Evaluate threats to water supply in the six drought regions.
- Summarize precipitation, streamflow, reservoir levels, and groundwater conditions.
- Enhance region-specific and resource-specific analysis.
- Consolidate large data sets.
- Allow region-specific response.
- Set comparable risks and levels of drought between regions.
- Provide a better definition of drought start and stop.
- Enhance public communication.
- Not intended to be triggers but rather indicators used in conjunction with other tools.



### Indicator Evaluation Criteria and Data Sources

| <i>Water Resource</i>           | <i>Data Source</i>   | <i>Evaluation</i>                  |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Precipitation                   | NJ State Climatologist's Mesonet data & county-based precipitation deficits from National Weather Service. | Compare 3-month deficit to normal. |
| Streamflows                     | Three gages per drought region, 18 total. Data on internet.  | Compare 3-month deficit to normal. |
| New Jersey reservoir levels     | Reservoir operators report levels to NJDEP.  | Compare current levels to normal.  |
| NYC's Delaware River reservoirs | Reservoir levels reported to Delaware River Basin Commission and are on internet.                          | Compare current levels to normal.  |
| Unconfined ground-water levels  | 19 wells across state. Data on internet.   | Compare current levels to normal.  |

The indicators are:

- Updated weekly during dry periods and bi-weekly in normal and wet periods.
- Available on the internet at [www.njdrought.org](http://www.njdrought.org).
- Intended to be used to evaluate water-supply droughts, not other types of drought.
- More thoroughly described in 'New Jersey Water-Supply Drought Indicators' which is available at <http://www.njgeology.org/enviroed/infocirc/droughtind.pdf>.

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